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NEW YORK TIMES 14 JULY 1979

Otto Doering, Former O.S.S. Leader

Otto C. Doering Jr., a New York lawyer who was second in command in the Office of Strategic Services under Gen. William J. Donovan during World War II, died of a heart attack yesterday at his summer home in Lake Placid, N.Y. He was 74 years old and lived in Scarsdale, N.Y.

Mr. Doering was a senior partner in the law firm of Donovan, Leisure, Newton & Irvine.

As a lieutenant colonel in the Army, he served with the O.S.S. from 1942 to 1945. He was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Order of the British Empire and, from Thailand, the Order of the White Elephant. He was also a director of the International Rescue Committee.

As a lawyer, he handled such major corporate cases as the receivership of the RKO Corporation and actions before the International Court of Justice. Mr. Doering joined the firm in 1929, the year it was founded by William Donovan. He became a partner in 1935.

Mr. Doering was born in Wilmette, Ill. He was a graduate of Cornell University and of the Cornell Law School, class of '27. Before joining Donovan, Leisure, he worked with the New York law firm of Cravath, de Gersdorff, Swaine & Wood.

Survivors include his wife, Lucy; three sons, Rogers of Scarsdale, Paul of Strafford Manor, Pa., and Otto 3d of West Lafayette, Ind., and nine grandchildren.